

Berks
PA



East Penn KK
HS 1020 0X

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

www.dot.state.pa.us

P.O. Box 2777

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2777

July 10, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA)
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1020X
East Penn Railroad, LLC
Abandonment Exemption in
Berks and Montgomery Counties, PA

Dear Sir or Madam:

The PennDOT Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways is in receipt of a June 4, 2008, letter from Mr. Karl Morell, Esquire, of Ball Janik LLP, attorneys for East Penn Railroad, LLC (ESPN), requesting that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) review the Environmental Report enclosed with their letter and forward any comments to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA). The Environmental Report was prepared in connection with ESPN's proposed abandonment (see above referenced STB docket) of the 8.6 mile rail line located between milepost 0.0 at Pottstown and milepost 8.6 at Boyertown, in Montgomery and Berks Counties, PA.

Mr. Morell's letter and the Environmental Report were forwarded to PennDOT Engineering Districts 5-0 and 6-0 which have jurisdiction for the areas where the abandonment is being proposed.

PennDOT recommends that, if it has not already done so, the STB should consult with the State Historical Preservation Officer-PA Historical Museum Commission (SHPO) regarding Sec. 106. PennDOT does have concerns regarding the public highway-rail crossings (at-grade and grade separated crossings) on this line and trusts that the crossings will be abolished in an appropriate manner and with the approval of the PA Public Utility Commission.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Tom Stettler of my staff at (717) 772-2637 or e-mail tstettler@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Denise L. Pyers".

Denise L. Pyers

Director

Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports & Waterways